

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. This mandatory airing of an obviously politically biased program at the demand of a notably politically biased man - who happens to own a television network - is an egregious betrayal of the responsibility with which he is charged.

Most immediately, the legality of this action must be carefully scrutinized by your organization, despite the Republican appointee who leads you. The FCC has an obligation to serve the public interest, as well, not the desires of any one political party.

More broadly, Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules and diversify ownership, not allow concentrated ownership of massive numbers of stations by individuals. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.